

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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9	Chm/NIC		✓		
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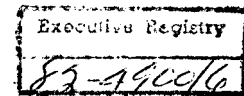
Executive Secretary
5/17/82
Date

**International
Communication
Agency**

United States of America

Washington, D. C. 20547

Office of the Director



MAY 12 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable
William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency

FROM: Charles Z. Wick *CMW*
Director

SUBJECT: West European Public Opinion on
Security Issues Before the NATO Summit

I thought you might be interested in the attached results of late-April USICA public opinion surveys in Britain, France, West Germany, and Italy. The surveys, done for the President's trip to Europe, show:

- o Support for INF deployment linked to arms talks has increased and now prevails in Britain, France, and West Germany. Such conditional support is back to the same levels as before last fall's anti-nuclear demonstrations.
- o When INF is not linked to negotiations, support prevails only in the U.K. Opposition prevails in Italy and opinion is divided in France and Germany.
- o The belief that INF strengthens Western deterrence is growing and predominates in all four countries.
- o President Reagan's zero-option proposal is widely preferred to the Brezhnev freeze plan.
- o Few favor NATO's first use of nuclear weapons. At the same time, however, overall opposition to NATO's use of nuclear weapons has declined markedly in recent months.
- o The U.S. is not seen as superior to the Soviets in nuclear strength. Two to three times more see the Soviets as ahead as see the U.S. ahead.
- o West Europeans have little stomach for increasing defense spending. Still, they widely favor NATO membership.

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